

DAVIE AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

NOVEMBER 8, 2001

6:30 P.M.

1. ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. Board members present were Chair Julie Aitken, Vice-Chair Jason Hurley and Barbara Spiece. Also present was Board Secretary Jenevia Edwards recording the meeting. Hilda Testa was absent.

Chair Aitken provided an update as to the progress regarding the deletion of 12.34(B) from the Town's Code. She also expressed the opinion that staff was attempting to ~~bombard~~ blockade the Board from having joint meetings with outside consultants in direct defiance to Council's direction.

2. DISCUSSION

2.1 Draft Ordinance for Open Space Zoning

Chair Aitken explained that based on her belief that staff was resistant to the deletion of 12.34(B), the Planning and Zoning Board should chose from the existing ordinances what it felt would be the best replacement rather than attempt to work with staff to create a new ordinance. She commented that she had discussions with developers and they were on the side of the farmers. Chair Aitken indicated that there were staff members who were also opposed to the zoning in progress and were attempting to turn it into a moratorium. She expressed the opinion that developers were being provoked to challenge the Town. Chair Aitken commented that if joint meetings between the Board, staff and developers were not eminent, meetings could be held with the developers and the Board. She indicated that she had had discussions with several developers who were anxious to proceed and were willing to adhere to Council's direction.

Chair Aitken indicated that a meeting with staff and a Councilmember did not indicate that any progress was being made towards the zoning in progress. She commented that proceeding with the ordinance appeared to be the first step.

Chair Aitken added that she had contacted the Town Administrator of Hamburg Township, Michigan requesting information on the open space ordinance that was implemented in 1992. She presented copies of the ordinance to the Board. A lengthy discussion followed, with the Board presenting many ideas for changes to the Hamburg Township ordinance for possible adoption as a new ordinance for the Town. Chair Aitken added that the possibility of adopting this as a new Town ordinance was dependent on Council's approval. The Board discussed changes that would be necessary to various portions of the ordinance in order to make it compatible for the Town. Also discussed were areas that could not be considered as open space, as well as E-zoning. Chair Aitken indicated that this was the first step in attempting to establish a new ordinance and hoped that Council would give it some thought. She inquired if the Board would be receptive to meeting with certain developers since there had been no attempt on staff's part to have the joint meetings. The Board agreed. A lengthy discussion followed with Vice-Chair Hurley commenting that the meeting should be scheduled before the rural preservation workshop. It was decided to have the joint meeting on November 26th. Chair Aitken indicated that the purpose of the meeting with developers was an attempt to "sell" the idea of open space development. She discussed at length the advantages of open space development as well as the success of similar developments in other areas of Florida.

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Ms. Spiece questioned whether it was safe to assume that previous ideas discussed by the Board along with ideas for achieving rural character preservation would be utilized by the developers. Chair Aitken indicated that the ideas discussed by the Board would be incorporated into the proposed ordinance, and along with the Mission Statement be combined as a package to make it work for the Town. Ms. Spiece commented that the Board had spent a lot of time formulating ideas to let them die. Chair Aitken advised that the Town would be hiring consultants and she hoped that staff did not attempt to steer them away from rural preservation development. Ms. Spiece inquired if it was possible for the Board to meet with the developers before making the presentation to Council with Chair Aitken responding in the affirmative. Chair Aitken indicated that she would forward a packet including the Board's mission statement to Council before the rural preservation workshop. A lengthy discussion followed regarding the meeting with the developers and expectation of the Board.

3. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

4. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to discuss.

5. COMMENTS AND/OR SUGGESTIONS

Chair Aitken indicated that a cover letter would also be forwarded with the packet to Council expressing the Board's hope for a positive response to the proposed ordinance.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hurley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Spiece, to adjourn. There being no objections, with Ms. Testa being absent, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Approved

Chair/Board Member